



Town Hall



Question & Answer

	Question	Answer
1	Why weren't there any clips of returning mothers?	Patricia, thanks for your question. We did not have the ability to custom build a product for this morning's Townhall. We utilized a stock product to convey the message of the Senior Commander, being that what we do here at Picatinny matters and facilitates the homecomings you saw. I think we all know that the Army is a diverse organization with varied ethnicities, backgrounds and genders. The images are intended to be a sample vice all inclusive. Please do not interpret this message as a slight against women in uniform or their vital contribution to the mission.
2	Last week's delayed opening caused gridlock on Route 15 by not opening the truck gate. Can we open the gates at least 30 minutes before the required report time in the future?	Andrew, thanks for your observation. Contrary to popular belief the truck gate was open, and eventually augmented by Patrol Units to increase the flow in. What was working against us at the truck gate was the fact that the traffic light is set to accommodate the morning commute traffic at the morning commute times vice everyone arriving at the truck gate at 1000. The plan for next time is if we delay it will be time driven, ie a 2 hour delay. As an example, if your report time is normally 0700, you would be given until 0900 to report. This would allow you two additional hours to manage your commute as you see fit given weather, traffic and conditions, whether this means you leave later or the same time you always do, it spreads the arrivals at the gates and should mitigate this.
3	I have been to the visitor center four times. Every time they give me excuses why they cannot process a window sticker at this time. I was the only one at the desk.	Brian, thanks for your observation. This would be an ideal ICE Comment. We have worked out multiple paths to get decals for your vehicles based on previous ICE Feedback. On 31JUL12, DES published this via Community Email: The Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) now has 3 easy and convenient ways to register your privately owned vehicle on Picatinny Arsenal, two of which cut out the Visitors Center trip entirely: http://www.pica.army.mil/des/vehicleregistration.aspx For more information, contact the Visitor Center at 973.724.4951 / 4595 or Community Policing at 973.724.3817.



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4.	Will we, at Picatinny Arsenal, be affected by "Sequester", and if so, how and when?	Patricia, this one is pretty tough to answer conclusively. The SECDEF and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs are on record stating that we do not have a backup plan in case of Sequestration. The DoD (and by extension the Army) have submitted their best estimate of budget requirements to Congress given the fiscal reality. DoD and the Services would have to go into deliberate planning to handle the situation if Sequestration hits. How Sequestration would be implemented or if there are interim compromises will change the exact situation DoD will have to deal with. We are currently operating under a 6 Month Continuing Resolution Act (CRA) which would take us into March. It is unclear how Sequestration would impact the CRA and vice versa. We will not have more on this unless specific policy and guidance is used by the SECDEF or the Services.
5.	During delayed openings, if someone shows up at the gate before the base is opened, why are they allowed on post? Wouldn't it be safer to stage them temporarily to the Visitor Control lot until the base is opened?	Alex, great question. I have given the Guards direction to allow people in before the delayed opening time in order to avoid punishing people who have braved the elements to make it here. I am also considering the possibility that one of the tenants may have a critical mission that must go on time and they have directed a critical few people to arrive early or at their regular reporting time. There is also the finite amount of parking at the Visitors Center. In the future, I foresee the majority of delayed openings will be phased (ie giving people 1-2 extra hours to get here) to ease the noted congestion at the gate during the Nor Easter last week, unless there are unforeseen conditions or events that dictate a timed opening vs a delayed and staggered opening. The intent is to allow people to get here safely. Given the variability of weather, it may take you more or less time to get here. We really just want you to get here.



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6	<p>I would like to know if BG McGuiness and LTC Mackay would support Picatinny Arsenal hosting Armed Forces Day again, either annually or biannually, the way it was previously celebrated (open to the public with vehicles and displays). Many of the people who work here are very proud of the work they do, including myself, and this event was one of the few ways we were able to share it with our families and friends. It was a real morale killer for myself as well as many of my coworkers and friends when BG Maddux cancelled it. I humbly ask for our Leadership to consider supporting Armed Forces Day again!</p>	<p>Michael, we are getting farther away from people knowing what we do. We are here to serve! We have a great story and we need to get the word out. We know that it is important that the American people see what we do. We may need to tell our story differently than has been done in the past, such as with the Armed Forces Day Open House. We may need to do a few smaller scale events to convey our message to the public. We need to look at our options and balance them with our budget. We will continue to look into this topic.</p>



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8 .	Can the delayed opening notification procedure be moved earlier than 0530? The current time makes travel difficult for employees commuting from locations such as the Ft. Monmouth area. Many personnel are already on route before the notification is sent.	Yes, we are working to get the message out as early as possible or one day before. The inclement weather delayed opening notification process is mostly event driven. As weather and road conditions change, so may our operating status.
9 .	What is that status of eNotify?	The eNotify system is up. The Garrison Commander will check to see if the system is running. Personnel can register for eNotify on the Pica Web at: http://www.pica.army.mil/garrison/